

# SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

*Preparation...Service...Excellence*



**CAPT Andrew Bender, USCG**  
**Sector Commander**



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Mississippi Managers Meeting  
7-8 February 2023



# SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## In attendance today:

**CAPT Andrew Bender**

**Sector Commander**

**LCDR Richard Cherkauer**

**Waterways Division Chief**

**BOSN Richard Berg**

**ATON Officer**

**LT Alex Kwolek**

**MSD St. Paul Supervisor**

**BMCS Carson Gillum**

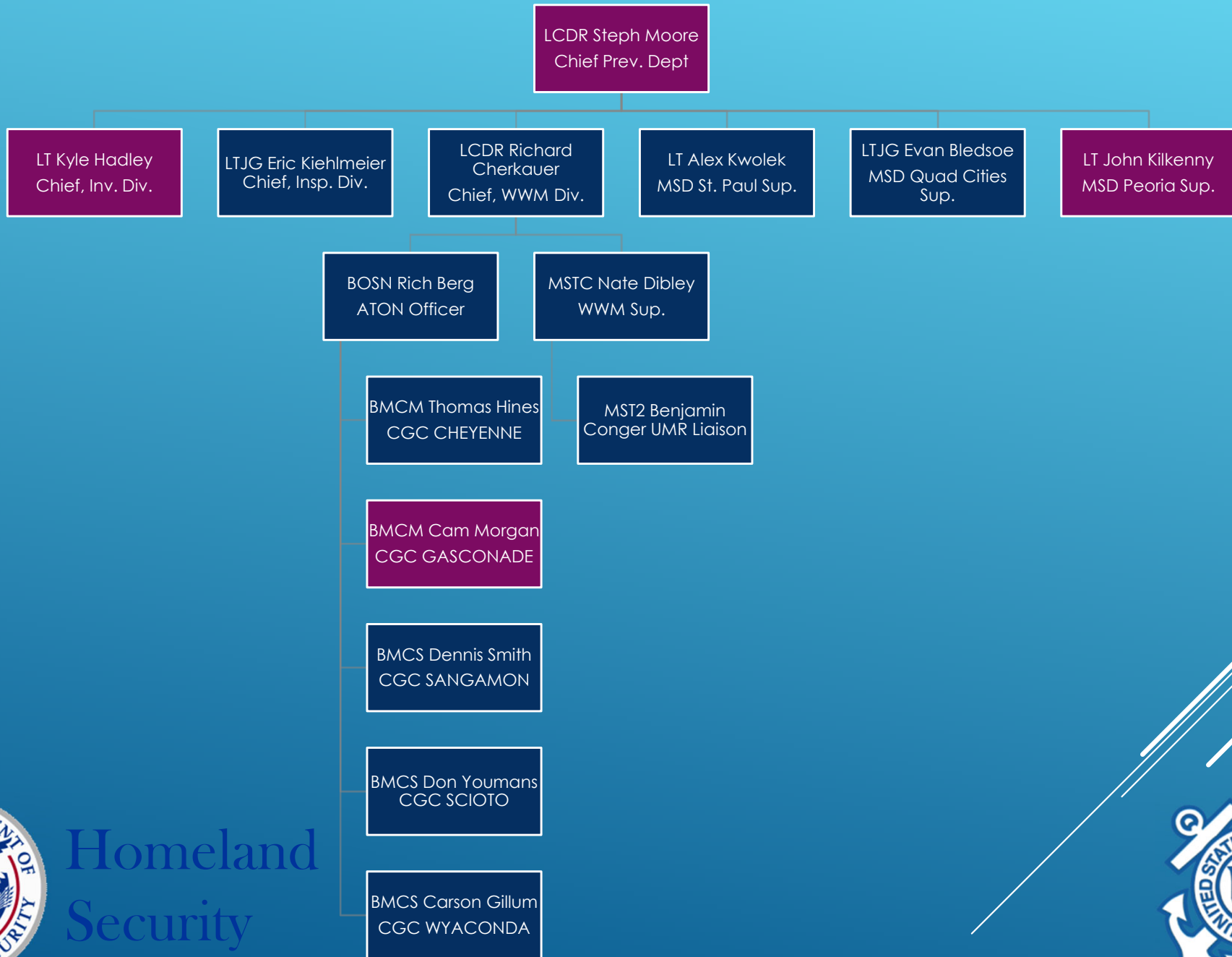
**WYACONDA Officer in Charge**



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# SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER PREVENTION DEPARTMENT



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# TODAY'S BRIEF

- **Area of Responsibility Overview**
- **Marine Casualty Trends**
- **River Tender / ATON Service Updates**
- **Waterways Action Plan Updates**
- **Top Challenges and Solutions**
- **Current / Future Initiatives**



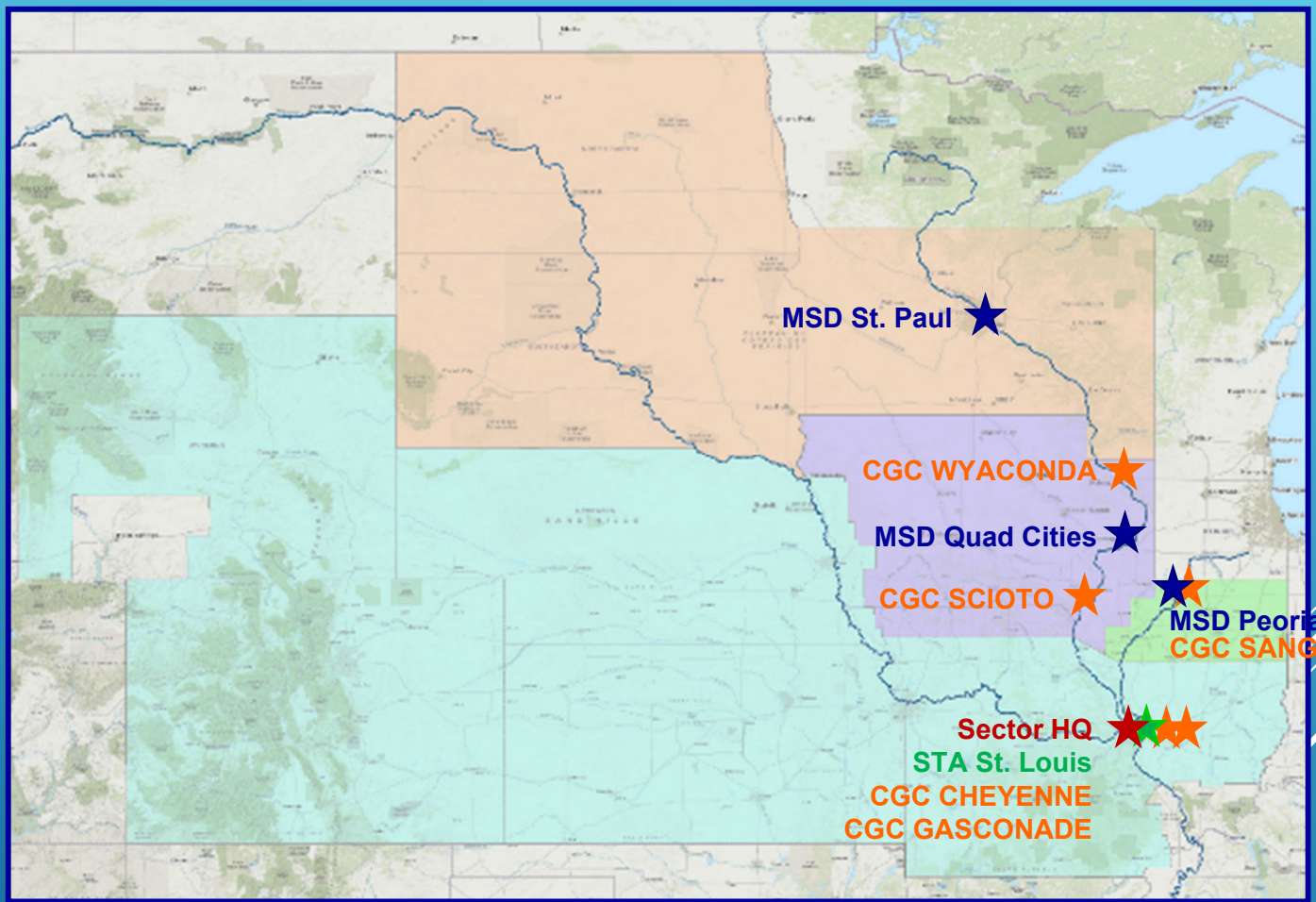
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# SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## Area of responsibility:

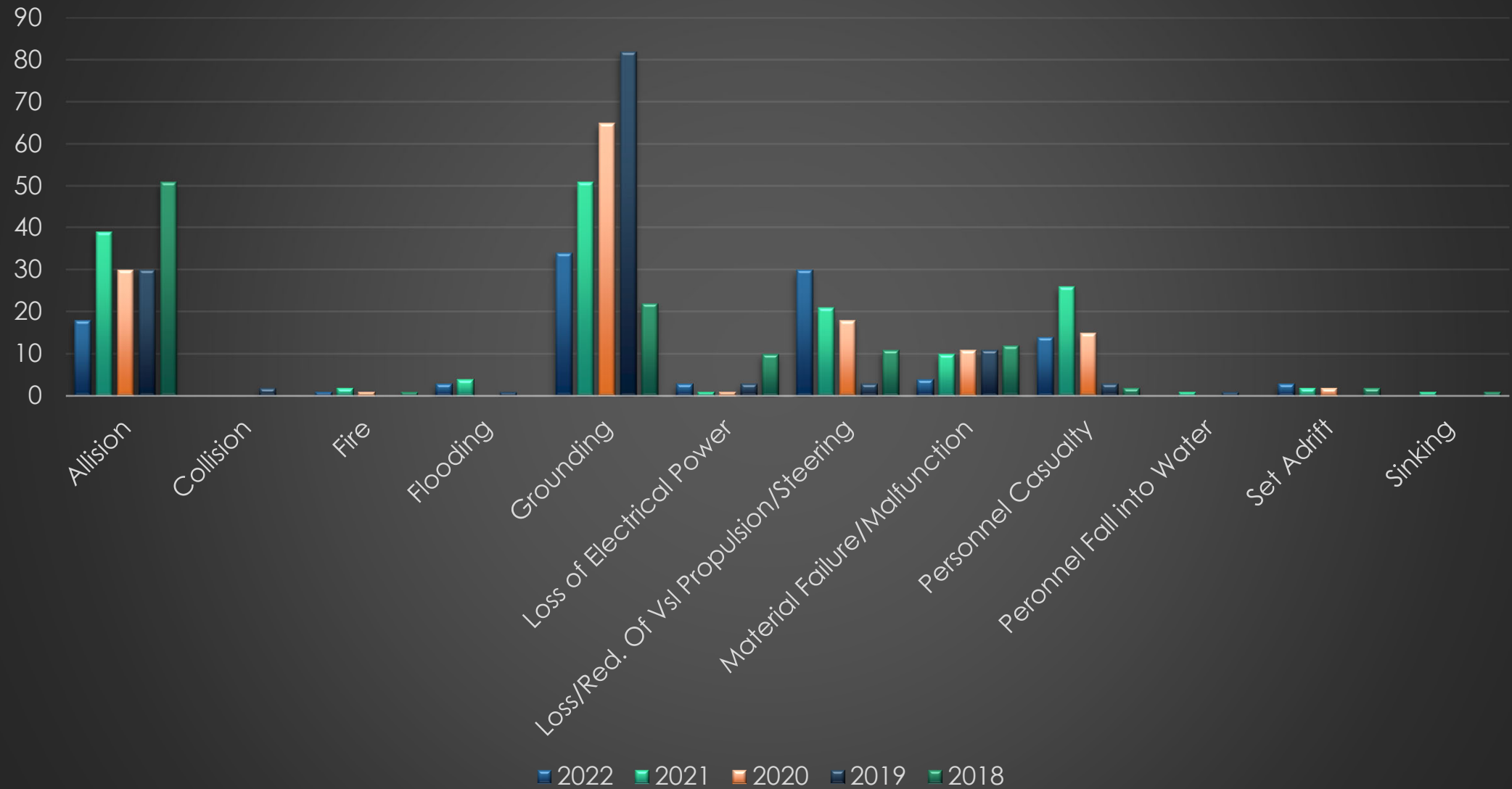
- 2,200 miles of waterways
- Mississippi, Missouri & Illinois Rivers & Various Tributaries
- All or part of 11 States
- 7 major population centers
- 33 locks & dams
- 238 bridges



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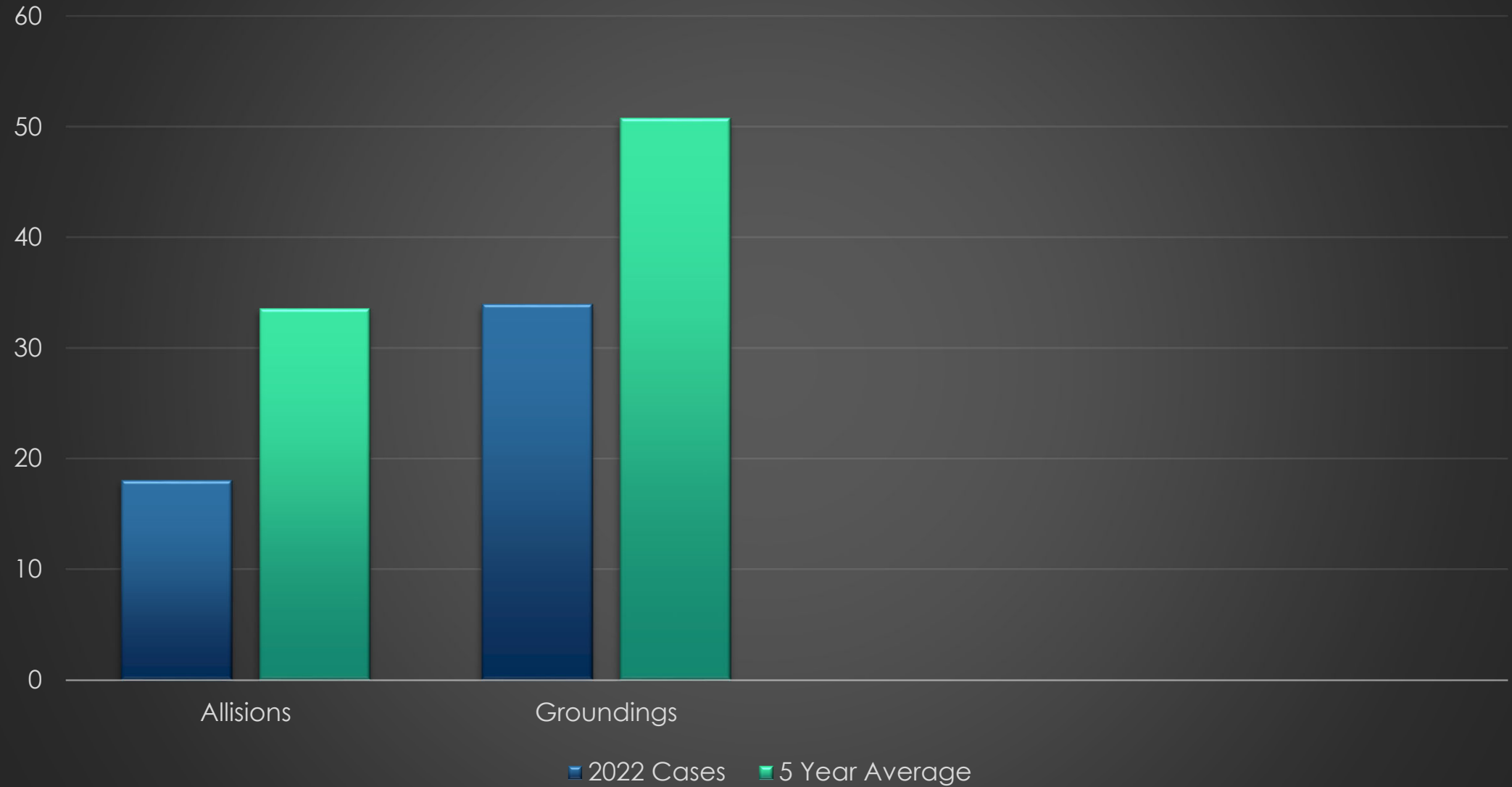
# Marine Casualty Trends



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# Marine Casualty Trends



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# RIVER TENDER UPDATES

## ➤ WYACONDA

- New OIC: BMCS Carson Gillum
- March 6<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> top end overhaul of MDE

## ➤ SCIOTO

- No planned 2023 maintenance periods

## ➤ CHEYENNE

- New OIC: BMCM Tom Hines
- No planned 2023 maintenance periods

## ➤ GASCONADE

- No planned 2023 maintenance periods



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# RIVER TENDER RECAPITALIZATION UPDATE

Oct 2022 – Contact awarded to Birdon America out of Denver who is working with Bollinger Shipyard to design and build the WCC-WLR variant



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# SUCCESS STORY – FALL 2022 ATON

- Supported Ag industry's record fall harvest.
- Extensive coordination between USACE and USCG facilitated maritime commerce.
  - PATHFINDER coverage of southern AOR
- River Tenders overcame obstacles:
  - WYACONDA covered for SCIOTO while she was undergoing an industrial maintenance period.
  - SCIOTO and GASCONADE covered for CHEYENNE while she was not mission capable.
  - CHEYENNE covered for Sector OHIO valley to enable CHIPPEWA to transit to Memphis and assist Sector Lower Mississippi River.



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# SUCCESS STORY – TOWING VESSEL/DAM ALLISON

Towing Vessel allided with Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, WI. The vessel was safely recovered without negatively impacting the Mississippi River.



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# WATERWAYS ACTION PLAN UPDATES

- Anticipate 2023 edition release  
Mid-March
- Mostly administrative in nature
  - Contact lists updated
- Dedicated work group to hotwash  
low water and incorporate  
changes



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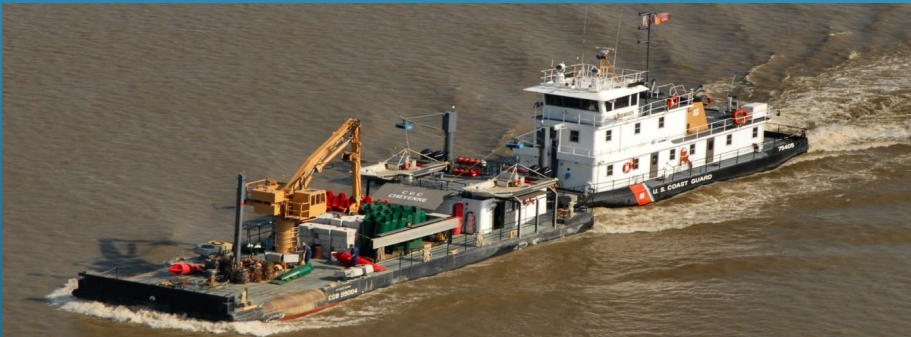
# TOP CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

## Challenges:

- WLR Age/Reliability
- Personnel turnover summer '23

## Solutions:

- Support WLR recapitalization efforts
- Streamline WLR support & maintenance functionality
- Cross-train personnel to minimize impact of transfer season



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# CURRENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Communicate spring opener ATON need assessment
- Maintain Communications with stakeholders:
  - USACE.
  - Maritime Industry.
  - OGAs.
- WCC Homeport recapitalization project
- ACOE Towing Vessel Inspections and Certification



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# QUESTIONS?



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